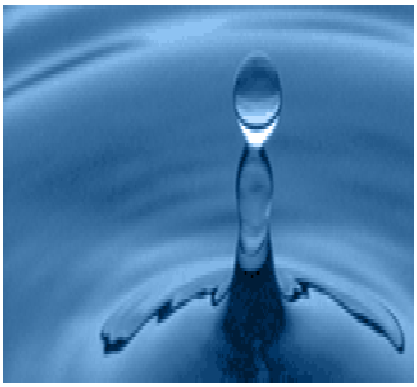
WebRIT Tips for GRTS Users

Why should I use WebRIT?



WebRIT is designed to facilitate data entry and storage of spatial information for projects stored in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Grants Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS). This interactive Web application allows you to locate your project areas and delineate them using the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), the national standard for storing surface water location information. Advantages of using WebRIT include

- WebRIT contains all the data needed to locate your GRTS projects—you do not need to download NHD or any other data.
- WebRIT enables you to store precise locations for surface water projects by allowing you to identify portions of NHD reaches. This provides more detail than is available through lists of reach codes alone.
- WebRIT allows you to view locations for water data from EPA programs, such as impaired waters from state 303(d) lists. You can also view reports containing additional information, such as the causes of impairment.
- Data created using WebRIT is compatible with EPA's Watershed Assessment, Tracking, and Environmental Results (WATERS) initiative, which brings together water data for many programs using NHD. Information stored in WATERS is available to water quality managers and the public through EPA's Enviromapper application. For more information on WATERS visit http://www.epa.gov/waters.
- When you use WebRIT and participate in EPA's WATERS initiative, the versions of NHD and the current reach codes are managed for you. EPA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are continually working to improve the NHD. As a result, reach codes may be changed or removed from the system. If you store reach codes in a standalone system, they may become out of synch with the EPA's version of NHD. By using the WebRIT, this data maintenance is managed for you.

How do I access WebRIT?

You can access WebRIT at http://www.epa.gov/waters/webrit or through the link provided in the GRTS data entry screens (Figure 1). If you are accessing WebRIT through the GRTS data entry screen, be sure you are using Internet Explorer as your Web browser because WebRIT does not support Netscape. You need a special user name and password to log in to WebRIT. If you do not know your username and password, e-mail Don Kunkoski at Kunkoski.Don@epamail.epa.gov.

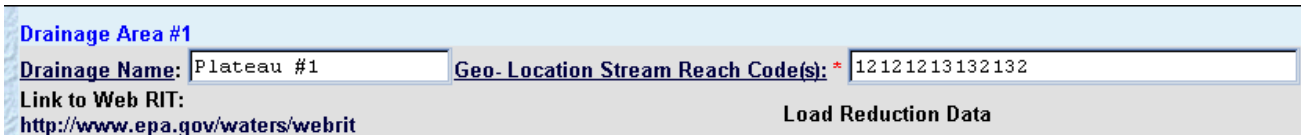


Figure 1. GRTS data entry screen with WebRIT link.

How do I identify projects using WebRIT?

When you enter location information into WebRIT, you will be prompted for an ID. The ID should have the format **Grant Number_Project Number_Drainage Area Number**. The Grant Number and Project Number are shown on your data entry screen (Figure 2). The Drainage Area Number is a number from 1 to 5 that identifies the drainage area you are entering data for (Figure 3). The ID for the example shown in Figures 2 and 3 would be "**000449970_01_1**" (Figure 4).

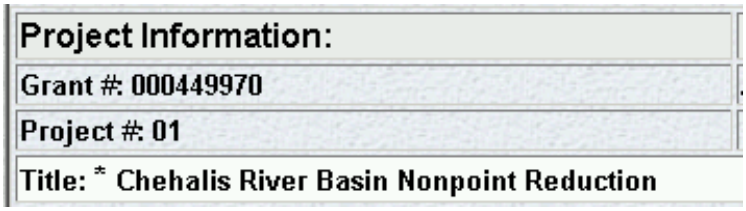


Figure 2. Grant and project numbers.

Figure 3. GRTS drainage area numbers.

Figure 4. Entering the GRTS project ID in WebRIT.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to enter reach codes into the GRTS application?

No. The reach code data are stored in WebRIT when you locate the streams and waterbodies and assign IDs. The reach codes will later be loaded into the GRTS application.

How can I find my GRTS projects?

The **Zoom by Geography Tool** (Figure 5) enables you to zoom to a specific State, Zip Code, County, Lat/Lon, Entity ID, or User Map Annotation.

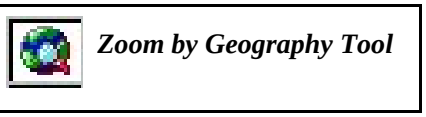


Figure 5. Zoom by Geography tool.

How can I view Latitude/Longitude Coordinates?

You can view lat/lon data using WebRIT two ways: (1) place your cursor over the map and the lat/lon values will be shown at the bottom of your browser window; or (2) use the **Identify Lat/Lon** tool (Figure 6) to get the coordinates for a specific point of interest. The lat/lon values are based on Geographic NAD83 data.

Figure 6. Identify Lat/Lon tool.

How can I select all of the reaches in a watershed?

For some GRTS projects you will want to select multiple streams, or possibly small watersheds. For best management practices (BMPs), EPA requests that you identify the streams that are directly benefiting from a particular project. You will need to use best professional judgment to decide which streams should be included.

You can use the **Select/Unselect by Rectangle** tool or the **Select/Unselect by Line/Polygon** tool (Figure 7) to select large groups of NHD reaches. These tools function like an on/off switch, so if your initial selection includes reaches that are not in the watershed of interest, using these tools again will unselect them. You can add additional reaches to your selection by drawing additional rectangles or polygons. To help you identify watershed boundaries, WebRIT includes a data layer called "Watershed," which allows you to view the USGS 8-digit Subbasin Boundaries.

Select/Unselect by Rectangle Tool

Select/Unselect by Line/Polygon Tool

Figure 7. Select/Unselect by Rectangle and Line/Polygon tools.

If your GRTS project is made up of multiple reaches, you may want to add them in small groups so you do not risk losing a large selection that you spent a lot of time creating.

What metadata values should I use?

The metadata stores information about the reach indexing work you do with WebRIT, such as what the source of your location information was for the projects you entered. You do not need to create or maintain metadata for each project. You only need to enter this information once per indexing session. Some suggested values are shown in Figure 8.

General Information **Metadata Title:** "GRTS Locational Data" **Originator:** The Grantee **Time Period:** The fiscal year of the grant, e.g., "FY2003" **Progress:** "In Work" **Update Cycle:** "Annually" **Abstract:** "GRTS locational data for GRTS project."	**Source Information** **Citation:** "319h Work Plan" **Originator:** Your agency **Title/Description:** "Section 319h nonpoint source approved state work plan." **Currentness:** The fiscal year of the grant **Scale:** 1:100,000 (unless known) **Media:** "Paper" **Created:** The first day of the fiscal year of the grant, e.g., "10-01-2002." **Finished:** The last day of the fiscal year of the grant, e.g., "09-30-2003." **% Contribution:** "100"
User Information **Name:** Your name **Organization:** Your organization	

Figure 8. Suggested metadata values.

How can I incorporate information about 303(d)-listed impaired waters into my project location?

The "Existing Impaired Waters" layer shows you the waters that have water quality impairments. When you turn on this layer, impaired waters are shown as bold red lines. You can use the **Identify** tool to get more information about the impairments. If you would like to include these reaches in the locations you store for your GRTS projects, simply select the blue NHD reaches where you see the red lines and click on the blue **A** button (Add Whole Linear Events) and assign your GRTS project ID. You can also use the **Copy Events** feature to copy the 303(d)-listed waters and add them to your GRTS project location.

How do I represent a stream that is missing in NHD?

If your stream is not present in the 1:100,00-scale NHD, you can use the **Add Point Event** tool (Figure 9) to place a point event at the confluence of that stream and the closest NHD reach on the map. This way, you still get a location that is linked to NHD.

Figure 9. Add Point Event tool.

Will I be able to edit my data later?

Yes. The streams you enter into WebRIT will always be available for editing. However, you may edit only data that you created. Other users cannot edit your data, and you cannot edit data created by another user.

How can I get support for WebRIT?

WebRIT has an extensive online help feature, which can be accessed by clicking on the **Help** button. You may also contact the EPA's Tech Support hotline at 1-800-844-0638 or owsupport@rti.org with any questions concerning the WebRIT application.